

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 MANILA 02672 070715Z

13

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03

SS-20 USIA-15 OMB-01 DRC-01 AID-20 /121 W

----- 017296

R 070354Z MAR 74

FM AMEMBASSY MANILA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1632

INFO AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

CINCPAC

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

C O N F I D E N T I A L MANILA 2672

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS, RP

SUBJECT: INTERNAL SECURITY BRIEFING BY FONSEC ROMULO

1. ALL CHIEFS OF DIPLOMATIC MISSIONS AND THEIR MILITARY ATTACHES WERE CONVENED BY FONSEC ROMULO AT NATIONAL DEFENSE HEADQUARTERS MARCH 6. G-2 OF GENERAL STAFF PRESENTED SLICK 40-MINUTE BRIEFING WITH CHARTS AND VIEWGRAPHS ON INTERNAL SECURITY SITUATION IN PHILIPPINES. PRESENTATION WAS MORE PROFESSIONAL THAN THOSE I HAVE PREVIOUSLY SEEN BUT INCLUDED THE USUAL CO-MINGLING OF MAOISTS, RIGHTISTS, LEFTIST ELEMENTS OF THE CHURCH, AND MUSLIMS AS THREATS TO THE STATE AND AS JUSTIFICATIONS FOR CONTINUED MARTIAL LAW. BRIEFING ENDED WITH CONCLUSION THAT GOVERNMENT WAS "IN NO IMMEDIATE DANGER, BUT CANNOT RELAX VIGILANCE."

2. IN OPEN FORUM WHICH FOLLOWED BRIEFING, PAKISTANI AND MALAYSIAN AMBASSADORS TOOK THE LEAD IN QUESTIONING PHIL MILITARY ASSERTION THAT MUSLIM REBEL LEADERSHIP IN THE SULUS WAS DOMINATED BY "MAOISTS." THIS LED TO AN EXCHANGE IN WHICH ROMULO AND CONSTABULARY CHIEF GENERAL RAMOS GAVE  
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PAGE 02 MANILA 02672 070715Z

DETAILS CONCERNING INVOLVEMENT OF SULU REBEL LEADER NUR

MISUARI WITH COMMUNIST FRONT ORGANIZATIONS AND WITH SELF-PROCLAIMED COMMUNIST LEADER SISON.

3. ALTHOUGH MOST PARTICIPANTS IN THIS BRIEFING PROBABLY FELT THEIR INTELLIGENCE WAS INSULTED BY THE STYLIZED PRESENTATION, IT WAS MY IMPRESSION THAT, ON POINTS, THE EXERCISE PROBABLY CONSTITUTED A NET PLUS FOR THE PHILIPPINE OBJECTIVES. THEIR DOSSIER ON MISUARI WAS PUT FORWARD IN PROFESSIONAL TONES BY RAMOS ABOUT AS CONVINCINGLY AS COULD BE DONE, AND PROBABLY RECEIVED GENERAL ACCEPTANCE FROM MOST OF THE AUDIENCE.

4. COMMENT: THIS CANNED BRIEFING, WHICH SEEMS TO BE UNIQUE IN THE EXPERIENCE OF MOST OF MY COLLEAGUES, IS OBVIOUSLY INTENDED BOTH TO JUSTIFY THE CONTINUED EXISTENCE OF MARTIAL LAW AND TO ASSIST IN COUNTERING UNFAVORABLE PUBLICITY WHICH THE BURNING OF JOLO TOWN HAS ENGENDERED. IT IS PROBABLY THAT IT, OR SOMETHING SIMILAR TO IT, WILL BE PUT BEFORE SAUDI ARABIAN FONMIN SAQQAF DURING THE COURSE OF HIS STAY HERE.  
SULLIVAN

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
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**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
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**TAGS:** PINS, RP  
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